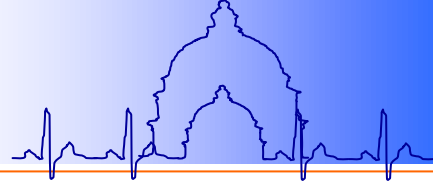




3-5-2010

The Pulse



Health Policy News and Events

Survey Finds Wide Support for Patient Centered Medical Homes

An online survey conducted by the Kansas Primary Care Physicians Coalition found most of those responding believe the Patient Centered Medical Home is a viable model for their practice, and nearly three-fourths expressed interest in redesigning their practice to be a PCHM. [Read more.](#)

HHS Announces Tribal Consultation Blueprint

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has the agency's compliance with the President's memorandum on Tribal consultation. HHS submitted its detailed Tribal consultation plan and says it's committed to improve services, outreach and consultation efforts to Indian Country. [Read more.](#)

KHPA Presents 'Medicaid Savings Options' Report to Legislature

The Kansas Health Policy Authority presented a 43-page report to the legislature this week detailing options for saving money and reducing state costs in the Kansas Medicaid program.

The [Medicaid Savings Options](#) report was requested by the legislature through a proviso in the recently-passed budget rescission bill ([Sen. Sub. H.B. 2222](#)) which called on KHPA to consult with various other state officials, as well as those who provide and receive Medicaid services, and to develop options to achieve efficiencies and improvements in the Medicaid program.

According to budget projections, the state faces a shortfall in FY 2011 of \$400 to \$500 million. In November, Gov. Mark Parkinson ordered a 10-percent cut in Medicaid provider payments to help balance the remainder of the FY 2010 budget. If that cut were extended through next year, it would reduce State General Fund expenditures on Medicaid by \$77 million, but would also cost the state \$140 million in federal matching funds.

"The legislature has a daunting task ahead," said KHPA Executive Director Andy Allison. "What we tried to do was show them where the bulk of Medicaid dollars are being spent now, and which areas are showing the most rapid cost growth. Then we outlined options for reducing costs in the short term and controlling future growth in the long term. We also presented options for generating fees and leveraging more federal reimbursements."

The report was presented to the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee on Monday, March 1. It was also delivered to the Senate Ways and Means Committee, the House Health and Human Services Committee, the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee and the House Social Services Budget Committee.

Allison Confirmed as KHPA Executive Director

The Kansas Senate voted 40-0 on Feb. 16 to confirm Dr. Andrew Allison as Executive Director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority.

Allison had been serving as Acting Executive Director since being appointed to the position by the KHPA Board in June 2009. Before that he had served as Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director.

By state law, the executive director has no set term of office but serves at the pleasure of the Board.

NEW: KHPA's Program Improvement Initiative: Nine new program reviews are now available online, with more coming in the days and weeks ahead.

Save the Date

Thurs., March 4
KHPA Board Executive Committee
When: 3:30–5 p.m.
Where: KHPA, 900 SW Jackson, 9th Floor

Mon., March 8
KHPA Board Finance/ Audit Committee
When: 3–4:30 p.m.
Where: KHPA, 900 SW Jackson, 9th Floor

Mon., March 15
KS Health Care Commission Meeting
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: KPERS Board Room, 611 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka.

Tues., March 16
KHPA Board Meeting
When: 1–4 p.m.
Where: HP Enterprise Services, 6700 S. Topeka Blvd., Bldg. 283, "J" Street, Air Industrial Park, Topeka

KHPA Gets Near-Perfect Score on PERM Review

A recent federal audit of KHPA's claims processing functions found only one error out of hundreds of claims that were reviewed, according to the audit report.

"If it hadn't been for one minor clerical error, we would have been one of the few states in the country ever to get a perfect score," said Christiane Swartz, Deputy Medicaid Director and Director of Medicaid Operations at KHPA.

The Payment Error Rate Measurement, or PERM review, is conducted every three years by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that oversees Medicaid. CMS implemented the PERM process in the early 2000s to measure improper payments in the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). KHPA's first PERM review was conducted in 2006, the same year the agency assumed management of the state Medicaid and HealthWave programs.

This year's review examined a representative random sample of 820 claims processed between October 2008 and September 2009. It uncovered a single payment error resulting in an overpayment of less than \$10,000, which has since been recovered.

In Kansas, the Medicaid and CHIP programs process an average of about 1.6 million claims each month for health care services such as doctor's office visits, pharmacy prescriptions and hospital treatment. The claims are processed by KHPA's fiscal agent contractor, HP Enterprise Services, and are overseen by the agency's Business Analysis, Testing and Claims Management team.

Rolanda Ellis, one of that team's supervisors, said the report, "shows there's been a lot of improvement since 2006 and that we've cleared up a lot of issues that eventually could have impacted our federal funding."

Governor to Sign H.B. 2221, Clean Indoor Air Law

Look for an announcement soon from Gov. Mark Parkinson about a bill-signing ceremony for H.B. 2221, the statewide Clean Indoor Air Law.

The Kansas House voted Thursday, Feb. 25, to approve the bill, which had already passed the Senate during the 2009 legislative session. Gov. Parkinson has said he intends to sign the bill.

The new law will prohibit smoking in most indoor places that are accessible to the general public, including bars and restaurants. KHPA testified in committee hearings, citing research that suggests the law will improve public health and reduce state expenses on smoking-related illnesses.

The Pulse is a periodic publication by the KHPA Communications Team. If you have questions or comments, contact the Public Information Officer Peter Hancock at 785/296.5603 or peter.hancock@khpas.gov

